

THE POOR MAN'S "CLUB."

So the Saloon Is Called, and Lustily and Impartially Bestows Its Blows.

Let us look for a moment at the graduates of the saloon. It is a fact that nine-tenths of the inmates of our poor-houses were brought there, directly or indirectly, through liquor purchased in saloons. Three-fourths of all the convicts in our state prisons were hard drinkers previous to the commission of the crimes for which they are now imprisoned. Where did they get the drink? It has been said that the saloon is "the poor man's club." Yes, it clubs him out of his money, his brains, his happiness, his position, and, lastly, clubs him out of his life.

Why is it that so many homes are so very desolate and blighted, the wife pale and haggard and the children half starved and naked? Is it not because the saloon draws and entices them from their homes? If the saloon did not exist, these men would stay at home with their families and friends evenings. But as it is they meet their friends at the saloons and there are treated and stand treat until they have lost all respect for themselves and fellow men.

Men do not desire to go into a saloon to read a magazine or play games. They can do this at home, and, as before mentioned, their only desire is to go and get drunk. The saloon is a place where intoxicating liquors are sold over a bar. Around this bar cluster the drinking and the drunk like flies around a sorghum spout. It is and always will be the trysting place for thieves, cutthroats and harlots. In its wanton revel the drunkard is pilfered of his last penny and the sober urged to take another drink. In its conversation vice is extolled, virtue derided and God blasphemed. Here may be seen the vacant leer of the rich young drinker as he swaggers up to the bar to treat his friends. Here also may be noted the hungry stare of the old toper as his trembling fingers vainly search his empty pockets for the price of another drink. Here may also be observed the poorly clad form of the feeble wife or mother as she begs the brutal barkeeper not to sell to a husband or son. Its patrons are usually on the march to total depravity, and its finished products are lunatics, paupers and criminals.

This is but a partial statement of the long train of evils that issue directly from this cesspool of vice. Out of it no real good has ever come. All its pretended pleasures are but baits to trap the unwary.

If the saloon must exist, let it be located in some damp dungeon underground, where the light of day will never penetrate to cheer. Let there be no deceptions. Let the place look as much like hell as the machinery of earth's misery can make it, that the patron may clearly see the maelstrom of agony and despair into which he is about to plunge.—F. J. Groehl in Voice.

Beer Drinking Lowers the Vitality.

The use of beer is found to produce a species of degeneration of all the organism, profound and deceptive. Fatty deposits, diminished circulation, conditions of congestion, perversion of functional activities, local inflammation of both the liver and the kidneys, are constantly present. Intellectually a stupor amounting almost to paralysis arrests the reason, changing all the higher faculties into mere animalism, sensual, selfish, sluggish, varied only

with paroxysms of anger that are senseless and brutal. In appearance the beer drinker may be the picture of health, but in reality he is most incapable of resisting disease. A slight injury, a severe cold or shock to the body or mind will commonly provoke acute diseases ending fatally. Compared with inebriates who use different kinds of alcohol, he is more incurable, more generally diseased. The constant use of beer every day gives the system no recuperation, but steadily lowers the vital forces. It is our observation that beer drinking in this country produces the very lowest form of inebriety, closely allied to criminal insanity.—Scientific American.

Moderate Drinkers Are Inebriates.

But I do not deny that there are moderate drinkers. I claim, however, that these people are all moderate drinking inebriates if they drink habitually or every day, or if they take alcohol regularly with meals. If a person begins taking 1½ ounces of alcohol with daily meals and continues the practice a few months, he will most notice the following results: If he omits the alcohol for a day, he will miss it. He will feel a craving for something. His digestion and strength will be below normal. This means that the digestive organs and nervous system are educated to digest food under the stimulus of so much alcohol. If the alcohol is withdrawn, the digestive forces and general physiological measure of force will be diminished accordingly. To this extent such a person is an inebriate. His digestion may recover its normal condition in time if the alcohol is abstained from, but until the craving for liquor is gone the man is an inebriate.—Dr. Keeley.

Temperance in Great Britain.

Temperance seems to be making rapid headway among the aristocracy of Great Britain. Not only has the young Duchess of Sutherland joined the Duchess of Bedford, Lady Henry Somerset, the Countess of Carlisle and other titled ladies as a public speaker in behalf of the cause, but the Earl of Carlisle has just given a practical illustration of his belief in the evils of drink by destroying the whole of his celebrated cellar, the fame of which extended far beyond the shores of England. Lord Norman-town, too, has converted all the liquor shops on his large estates into temperance hotels, following the example of the Prince of Wales, who will not tolerate a single public house on his Sandringham property.—Christian at Work.

A suggestion has been made and in a few places acted on which will enable every farmer to have electric lights in his house and barn, too, if he so chooses. It is that the windmill, which so many agriculturists use for pumping water for their live stock, shall also be employed to run a small dynamo. The average rate of the wind is 7½ miles an hour. The dynamo is connected with some small storage batteries, and these deliver the electric current. With the wind at 20 miles an hour a windmill with fans 18 feet across can generate electricity to the amount of three horsepower.

Light electric railways ought to connect all the villages of this country with one another, their cars taking on passengers at every farm gate.

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